

From: aaauer@deadprogrammers.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 6:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I write regarding the ongoing question of remedies in the DoJ vs. Microsoft trial. I am not entirely aware of your policies on considering input from those outside your borders, but given that profound repercussions are likely to be felt from this outcome by industry members and citizens around the globe, I felt that it was imperative that I at least voice my concerns.

It is my opinion, as an IT professional and engineer with computing background, that to ratify the current settlement proposal between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice would be extremely imprudent. Whatever the rationale the Department had in coming to this proposal, I believe it to be erroneous in that it is not only completely wanting in remedy for consumers, but in fact shackles them to further Microsoft monopoly by enshrining many of their monopolistic strategies in legal precedent. Specifically, the lack of requirement to bring the file format of Word into the public domain, the allowance that Microsoft verify entities as "legitimate businesses" (a term as loosely and ambiguously interpretable as they like) and the pencil-thin definitions which will allow Microsoft to continue, and indeed expand, it's unfair monopolistic practices.

I can only hope that this is read, and perhaps, considered.

Very truly yours,

Anthony Auer
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